VLPTS

Nayagarh	Commissioned during 1996-97
Thoumal Rampur (TSP)	- do -
Bada Barbil (TSP)	- do -
Nagchi	Commissioned during 1997-98
Aud	Installation completed during 1997-98
Kotampur (TSP)	- do -
Koksara (TSP)	- do -
Chitiakonde (TSP)	- do -
Paikamal	Under implementation
Sukinda	- do -
Udaigiri	- do -
Simlipalgarh (TSP)	- do -
Jayapatna (TSP)	- do -
Lan Jigarh (TSP)	- do -
Kashipur (TSP)	- do -
Machhkund (TSP)	- do -

Procedure to start Power Projects

749. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any simplified procedure to start Power Projects by way of giving more power to States and decentralising the cumbersome procedures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In exercise of the Power conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), the Central Government has fixed the limit of Rs. 1000 crores to a scheme for a generating station prepared by a Generating Company and selected through a process of competitive bidding by the competent Government or Governments, as the sum of capital expenditure exceeding which the scheme shall be submitted to Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence. Through this notification, Power has been given to the State to clear power projects costing upto Rs. 1000 crores which have been selected through the process of international competitive biddings.

Besides the above, some of the steps taken by the Government for decentralising the procedure for clearance of private power projects, *inter-alia*, include;

- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by according automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories.
- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.

Purchase of Power

750. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally agreed to purchase power from Pakistan and exchange of power between West Bengal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the rate and quantum of power likely to be purchased from Pakistan annually;

(c) the number of years for which the agreement for the purchase of power has been reached;

(d) whether the offer for sale of power was made by Pakistan through international financial institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the arrangements of power transmission from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Pakistan High Commission, in May 1997 conveyed to the Government of India that the Government of Pakistan is considering a proposal to export electricity to India and sought technical details on the grid system in India. In response, Government of India conveyed its interest in the proposal in June, 1997 and suggested that technical, commercial and administrative issues should first be examined by a team of experts from India and Pakistan. The Government of India had offered to send a team of experts to Pakistan. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Government of Pakistan may depute an expert team to India. There has been no further progress in the matter.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Power

751. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power plants functioning in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to enhance the capacity of power generation in the State during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?